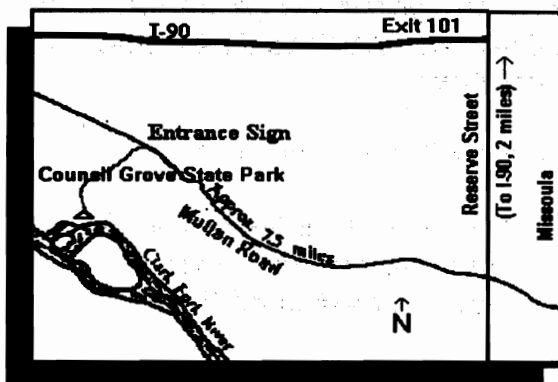


HOW TO GET THERE

In Missoula two miles south of I-90 on Reserve Street, then 7.5 miles west on Mullan Road. Park is located on the south side of the road.



Special thanks to Montana State Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Association for their help in funding this project.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks receives federal funds and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, or handicap. For information or concerns regarding discrimination, contact the Personnel Office, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Ave, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, (406)444-2535, or The Montana Human Rights Commission, 1236 Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620, 1-800-542-0807.



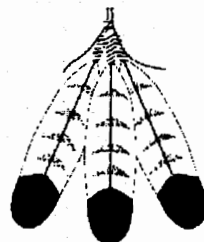
**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804 (406)542-5500

COUNCIL GROVE



STATE PARK



WELCOME TO COUNCIL GROVE STATE PARK

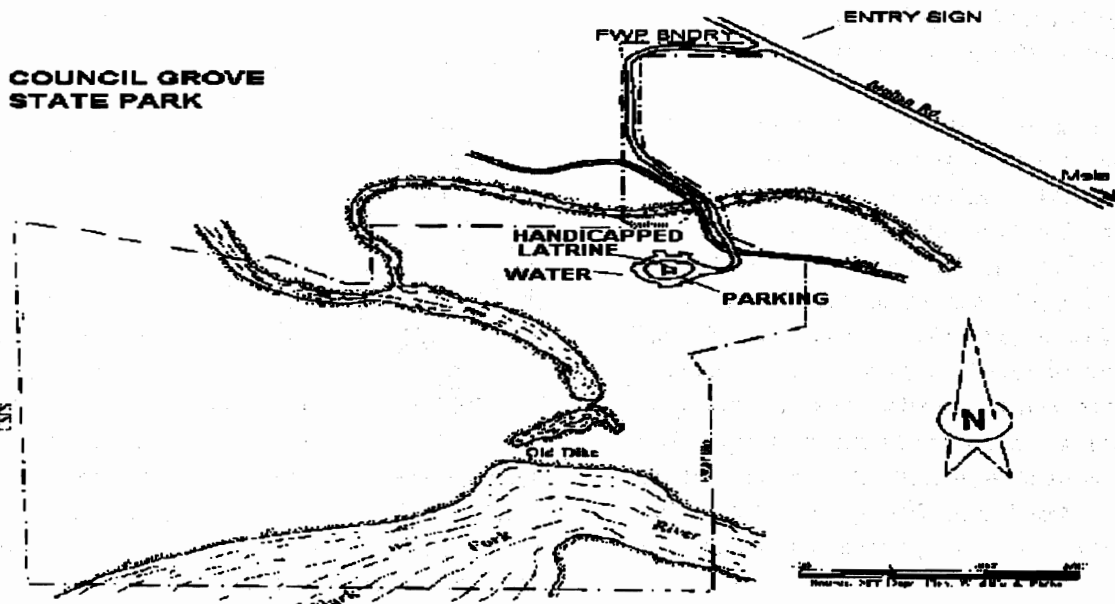
Administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Council Grove State Park is located 10 miles west of Missoula. Open year-round as a day use area, the 186 acre park marks the location of the 1855 council between Isaac Stevens and the Flathead, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Indians. The council resulted in the Hellgate Treaty, which created the Flathead Indian Reservation.

In addition to its historic significance, Council Grove State Park offers unique birdwatching opportunities, scenic picnic areas, and excellent fishing access to the Clark Fork

The Council Grove

"Before horses and firearms changed intertribal relations, the Kalispel or Pend'Oreille people occupied a home territory ranging from the

confluence of the Lower Clark's Fork east to the Swan River, encompassing the Flathead Lake area, the Mission and Jocko Valleys, the Swan Valley, and the current "Bob Marshall Wilderness" area. The winter camps of the Bitterroot Salish or "Flathead" people ranged from the Bitterroot Mountains in the west to Three Forks in the east, with major bands centered in areas such as Butte, Helena, and the Big Hole Valley. The Missoula area was shared. The hunting, fishing, and gathering territories of both tribes covered an immense area, including the entire length of the Musselshell River to points east of Billings. To the west, the Salish often utilized central and northern Idaho, and the Kalispels used canoes to travel down the Clark's Fork to their close friends and relations, the "lower" Kalispels or Pend d'Oreille in present day Idaho and Washington."

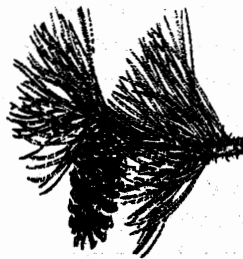


Council Grove State Park purportedly contains the site of the July, 1855 Hellgate Treaty signing (though some historians say that evidence suggests a site down river from this place). The treaty grounds were known in Salish as Člmè, meaning *Trees Whose Limbs Have Been Cut Off*, perhaps referring to the large, smooth-trunked ponderosa pines. The treaty established the Flathead Indian Reservation in the Jocko and Mission Valleys. Isaac Ingalls Stevens negotiated this and many other treaties while acting as governor of Washington Territory and Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Tribal leaders, headed by xʷet̓x̌cín (Plenty Horses, or Chief Victor), questioned why the US was seeking a treaty since they were not at war, and resisted Stevens' efforts to get them to abandon the Bitterroot Valley. (The treaty finally left the valley in an ambiguous status, and for the next three decades, non-Indians stepped up pressures until the tribe was forcibly "removed" in 1891.) The Chiefs were mainly interested in seeking US help in ending intertribal wars with the Blackfeet.

Stevens, however, was more intent on getting the tribes to cede large tracts of their land base, so that the US could secure title to most of western Montana and so open it to non-Indian settlement. The tribes withheld from cession certain "reservations," and Stevens promised them extensive material aid. A Jesuit priest who observed the negotiations remarked that due to poor translation, "not a tenth of it was actually understood by either party." The treaty was ratified in 1859, and tribal leaders, trying to make the US live up to its side of the deal, would often cite the promises made at Člmè.

Native Plant Communities



Council Grove State Park offers a unique opportunity to learn about the history of the site by looking at the plants that are present. The large mature cottonwoods attest to the river channel's old locations. The huge Ponderosa pines, however, tell of long spells of dry conditions with frequent ground fires to control invasive douglas firs. Many native grasses can be seen in the open areas of the park. These species make it easier to visualize what the meadows of the area looked like before cultivation changed the face of the landscape.

Watchable Wildlife



Council Grove State Park offers many opportunities to view wildlife. The open grove structure of this riverside park attracts a wide variety of birds. Watch for flickers, sapsuckers, and many species of woodpeckers. Great blue herons have been spotted along the river's edge. White-tailed deer are often seen in the park, and on rare occasions, black bears pass through as well. The slough that you crossed on the way into the park is a great place to see waterfowl such as the blue-winged teal. Cool morning and evening hours are the best times to see the abundant wildlife in the area. Remember to keep the distance between you and the wildlife safe and comfortable for all parties.



Fire History

The winter of 1995 brought a lethal combination of heavy rains and high winds that resulted in the loss of several stately Ponderosa pines. One of these giant stumps has revealed a wealth of information on the fire history of the area. By counting the rings of the dead tree and locating scars inflicted by major fires, approximate dates can be determined for the fires. More research is being done in cooperation with scientists at the Intermountain Fire Lab in Missoula to determine what the natural fire regime was before the era of fire suppression began.



REGULATIONS

Welcome to Council Grove State Park.

To enhance your recreational experience and to aid us in protecting your state park, please observe the following rules:

Council Grove is a day use park. Visitors are welcome year-round from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. NO CAMPING IS AVAILABLE AT THIS PARK.

This is a primitive park, so please

- ♦ **Pets are allowed throughout the park; however, they must be kept on a leash at all times.**
- ♦ **Motorized vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas; please don't drive on vegetation.**
- ♦ **Please observe the 15 m.p.h. speed limit - The speed limit makes the park safer for everyone and minimizes dust and mud problems.**
- ♦ **All group activities of 30 or more people must obtain a special recreation permit.**
- ♦ **Campfires are permitted only in established fire grates. Please don't leave fires unattended.**